IN THIS ISSUE: The War of Bouvines: Rise of France

MEDIEVAL WARFARE

VOL I, ISSUE 1

The rise of France: the War of Bouvines

With:
- The decisive clash of the War
- The English navy 1202-1214

Also:
- Swords versus armour
- The Mongols in Hungary

And much more!

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Hello everyone,

I am very proud to present you with this, the very first issue of Medieval Warfare magazine. Bringing Medieval Warfare to life has been a long, sometimes slow, but overall brilliant journey for me. When I first started working on the project, Ancient Warfare was already in its third year of production and growing by leaps and bounds. I was asked to become the editor of a very similar publication on the medieval period, so I jumped at the chance to start my own magazine covering medieval military history. While Medieval Warfare is meant to have its own character and voice, the process involved in creating an issue is very similar to the one used for Ancient Warfare. For me however, the whole process was new. I soon discovered there was much involved in getting a magazine like Medieval Warfare into print.

One of my first tasks was building up a network of authors and experts who would contribute to the magazine: after all, where is any decent magazine without the articles? I spent months traveling around Europe to various lectures, congresses and exhibits to find enthusiastic individuals that would ultimately be writing for Medieval Warfare. As readers of Ancient Warfare already know, photographs and illustrations are equally important in forming a good publication (at least in the magazine concept we use). I can tell many stories about slipping and sliding up and down the hillsides of Belgium and Germany in mid-winter to get just the right images of castles and fortifications. When it came to artwork for the magazine, I found that there already were a number of talented artists willing and ready to offer their services: some of these will be familiar, while others are brand new and (as you will see) have created some truly stunning contributions.

The goal of Medieval Warfare has always been to cover all facets of medieval history. We aim to find new angles and present unique views on well-known topics such as the Crusades and the Hundred Years War. At the same time, we aim to provide readers with articles on lesser-known subjects such as the “War” of Bouvines covered in this issue.

The launch of Medieval Warfare would not have been possible without the hard work of my colleagues at Karwansaray Publishers and all the authors and artists that have contributed in some way to the magazine. I would especially like to thank Jasper Oorthuys, editor of Ancient Warfare. His help and support has been instrumental in assuring that the standards of Medieval Warfare remain as high as possible.

I hope very much that you’ll enjoy this first issue of Medieval Warfare and will continue to read and follow the magazine in issues to come. After all, without you, the reader, Medieval Warfare would not be possible. We very much welcome your thoughts and reactions to the magazine: visit us at www.medieval-warfare.com and send me a message via our contact form.

Happy reading!

Dirk van Gorp
Editor, Medieval Warfare magazine

Scriptwriting in the Middle Ages

Thumb through the pages of the medieval accounts of the Battle of Bouvines and you certainly won’t find anything like the articles elsewhere in this volume – no long passages devoted to the fortifications or to the weapons used by combatants, nor anything but the most cursory discussions of logistics, troop movements or tactics. If anything, medieval histories of the battle read instead like those hackneyed Hollywood historical epics that proper scholars and properly scholarly history buffs must never admit to actually enjoying. In each, the sides are clearly laid out and divided into good guys and bad, then combatants paired up so that they may exchange blows and pithy speeches while the larger battle goes largely unrelated.

When we actually do find a medieval writer mentioning the weaponry used in a battle or the tactics, we can be fairly certain that it is mostly just there to further develop the characters’ parts.